~~Jany~~ 1876
21st ([illegible]) March

My dear Maria

"Uncle Joseph" has never been found by the Bride & Bridegroom & he is tired of waiting & looking out for them & the preparations for them have all fallen to the ground – Dinners with choice wines & even a Wild Boars head – A comedy in my Theatre Goldoni's "Pan" & above all the Roman Spring in all its splendour of flowers & perfumes

Now I hope you'll be able to tell me something about them & if I am to look for them any longer? – I have not quite given 'em up

I am glad to give you a good account of myself in the hope that you will give me a good account of yourself & poor dear Tom & that the ugly winter is making itself scarce & that he is able to get out & that his legs have recovered from dancing at his daughters wedding!!

All our beautiful Spring has come to an end
& you have sent us the "fag end" of your
winter

Except a little billious attack to which
I am subject I am doing very well tho' my
my painting does not quite flourish but the
portrait is done & approved, tho' I have been
obliged to make it much younger & like
me when I wore the uniform 12 years ago

I am getting idle in Painting & writing
& have quite a pile of unanswered letters
when I shall "get up my steam" again I
dont know. but the spring returning may do
it - Dr Valeriani is anxious to take me to visit
his Sister who is Lady Abbess at Capriola, but
I am not sure that my strength is up to the
mark - Good bye my love to all

Your loving brother Joe

Rome 21st March
1876

The British Artists here are a very inferior set & I have little to do with them except as trustee I am just going to give 7 of them a supper & after a comedy in my nice little Theatre 'Tis well that I have not too many fds for I should not be able to attend to them — the quiet of my life is necessary for my well being — I get the English newspaper every day as well as the Italian & so I am well amused

At 10 o'clock I go to bed & get up at 6 to breakfast of tea & toast & one Egg, I sleep well & altogether am considered one of the most respectable antiquities of Rome

The excavations going on are quite wonderfull for they always find something & have made a new museum of the findings

As yet my son in law Newton has not arrived but he is buying antiques at Constantinople, I expect him soon — he will come to live in Rome when he gets his pension — now pardon this very dull letter & with my love to all

believe me your loving brother
Joe

your writing is excellent
& easy to read